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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Imagery analysis report

Farmer Aircraft Variants Identified in China



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**IAR-0037/80
MARCH 1980
Copy 167**

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FARMER AIRCRAFT VARIANTS IDENTIFIED IN CHINA



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1. Variations of the standard FARMER D and D Mod aircraft models have been recently observed in China. On some FARMER models, the normal ordnance pylon arrangement has been supplemented by additional pylons, and on others, pylons have been seen for the first time.

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2. On the FARMER D aircraft, which normally has no pylons, one pylon has been observed outboard of the fuel tank on each wing (Figure 1). On the FARMER D Mod aircraft, which normally has only one pylon inboard of each fuel tank, additional pylons have been observed outboard of the fuel tank on some aircraft (Figure 2) and on the wingtips of other aircraft (Figures 3 and 4). These variants have been designated FARMER D (Variant), FARMER D Mod (Variant A), and FARMER D Mod (Variant B), respectively.

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3. The FARMER D Mod (Variant B), with wingtip-mounted pylons, has not been confirmed on overhead photography in China but will be reported under this designation when seen. It has only been seen thus far on a videotaped TV program broadcast in China (Figures 3 and 4).

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4. Table 1 presents a comparison of the standard FARMER models and the newly identified FARMER Variants.

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IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS

5. It is not known specifically why the number and location of the pylons on the aircraft vary. It is speculated that the Chinese may want to increase not only the number of aircraft capable of carrying air-to-air missiles (AAMs) and other air-delivered ordnance but also the number of AAMS each aircraft can carry.

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REFERENCES



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REQUIREMENT

Project 130196NE



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Table 1.
Comparison of FARMER Aircraft Standard and Variant Models

	All Weather	Clear Air Only	Pitot Tube		Number of Ordnance Pylons				Has Trainer Version	Remarks
			Nose Mounted	Wingtip Mounted	Inboard of Fuel Tank	Outboard of Fuel Tank	Wingtip Mounted	None		
I Standard FARMER Models										
FARMER B	X			X				X		A few have been seen with 1 pylon inboard of each fuel tank
FARMER B Mod	X			X		1				Only a few seen in country at Shuangchengzi (Shuang-cheng-tzu) Airfield
FARMER E	X			X		2				Originally designed by Soviets to carry 4 ALKALI AAMS on BROOMSTICK launchers
FARMER D		X	X					X		
FARMER D Mod		X	X			1				
FARMER F		X	X					X		Designated FARMER trainer; 1 observed at Shenyang (Shen-yang) Airframe Plant
										[redacted] with wingtip-mounted fuel tanks
FARMER G		X	X					X	X	Previously designated FARMER Mod wing; a few have been observed with one pylon inboard of each tank
II New FARMER Variants										
FARMER D Variant		X	X				1			See Fig 1
FARMER D Mod Variant A		X	X			1	1			See Fig 2; a few seen previously at Shuangchengzi Airfield but are now more widely deployed
FARMER D Mod Variant B		X	X			1		1		See Figs 3 & 4; this variant has only been confirmed on ground photography (videotaped TV broadcast in Aug 79)

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